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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

OF THE

Kirkham Urban District

For the Year 1951

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

KIRKHAM:
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Kirkham Urban District

FOR THE YEAR 1951

To the Chairman ond Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1951.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	7,388
(At the 1931 census the population was 4,031, whilst in 1949 the civilian population was estimated to be 4,710. The home population in 1950 was 6,513).	
Number of inhabited houses at 31-12-51 ...	1,350
Rateable value at 31-12-51	£31,445
Amount produced by a penny rate	£125

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—87 births (47 males and 40 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 14.9 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 22.08 per 1,000 in 1950.

Stillbirths.—There were 2 stillbirths during the year, making a stillbirth rate of 22 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 27 in 1950.

Deaths.—75 deaths (30 males and 45 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 14.2 per 1,000 compares with a death rate of 14.0 per 1,000 in 1950.

Infantile Mortality.—Four deaths of infants under one year of age occurred. The ages, sexes and causes of death were as follows :—

	Ages of Females	Ages of Males	Total
Prematurity and Placenta Praevia	—	1 hour	1
Prematurity	—	6 hours	1
Asphyxia	4 months	—	1
Toxic Myocarditis and Myocardial Failure, Acute Broncho Pneumonia and Marasmus	8 months	—	1
	2	2	4

The infantile mortality rate was 46 compared with 93 in 1950.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Entritis under 2 years of age ...	0
Maternal Mortality	0
Deaths from Tuberculosis, all ages	2
Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2
Deaths from Cancer	5

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1951 :—

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .	3	1	4
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1
Vescular Lesions of Nervous System ...	2	8	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	3	1	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1	2
Other Heart Disease	4	6	10
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Influenza	1	5	6
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	0	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	0	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	5	12	17
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	1	0	1
Suicide	0	1	1
	30	45	75

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 smaller towns and this district for the past five years:

	England and Wales		148 smaller towns (25-50,000 pop.)		Kirkham Urban District	
Year	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1947	20.5	12.0	22.2	11.9	22.0	12.3
1948	17.9	17.9	19.2	10.7	22.1	12.1
1949	16.7	16.7	18.0	11.6	22.8	12.7
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	21.08	14.1
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.9	14.2

The notable features of the above Vital Statistics are the decreases in the numbers of births and of deaths of infants under one year compared with the previous year.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Personnel.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Borough of Lytham St. Annes, Urban District of Poulton-le-Fylde and Rural District of Fylde, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: J. ECKERSLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.P.

Hospital Facilities.—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious Diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the case of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Ambulance Service is Administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities.—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in laboratories at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary. The latter laboratory is also used for the examination of water and milk samples.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service.—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.—A County Council Clinic is located in Mellor Road and sessions held, at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows :—

Monday	...	a.m.	Minor Ailments Clinic.
Tuesday	...	p.m.	Ante-Natal (alternate Tuesdays).
Thursday	...	a.m.	Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).
		a.m.	Minor Ailments.
		a.m.	Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).
		p.m.	C.W.C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1951 :—

DISEASES.	CASES NOTIFIED.												HOSPITAL.	
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year.	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over.	Age unknown.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases rem'd to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to District.
Smallpox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	55	..	..	1	1	1	50	2	..	..	..	..	53	..
Diphtheria & Membranous Group	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid)	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	3	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	6	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	1	..	3	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Polio-encephalitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria contracted abroad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. In this country	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other diseases notifiable in district, e.g.,—Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles and German Measles	41	2	8	7	14	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Any other disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	110	2	10	9	15	1	66	5	1	1	..	3	57	..

Scarlet Fever continued mild in type, of the 55 cases 52 were non-civilian persons.

The single case of diphtheria was in a non-civilian.

There was a rise in the incidence of measles compared with 1950. Of the 41 cases 9 were non-civilians.

A partyphoid fever carrier was discovered after he had infected two members of his family.

The District was free from Infantile Paralysis during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality During 1951 :

	— New Cases —				— Deaths —			
Age Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y		Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y	
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—55	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
	2		0		2		0	

In 1950 there were 4 new cases notified, and 1 death reported from the disease.

In conclusion I thank the Members of the Health Committee and Officers of the Urban District Council and in particular the Sanitary Inspector and Mr. N. Swift for courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. DODD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Kirkham Urban Sanitary Authority

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my fifth Annual Report on the work done in the Sanitary Department during 1951.

During the year 32 notices and letters have been served with regard to the abatement of nuisances and the remedying of insanitary defects.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Public Cleansing.—The Scavenging of the whole District is carried out weekly.

The work is done by the Council's men and motor under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Average weekly number of loads of refuse dealt with at the Tip : 34.

	Conversions During 1951	During 5 years 1946-50
No. of Privy Closets :—		
To fresh water closets	None ...	... 13
To pail closets	None ...	... None
No. of Pail Closets :—		
To fresh water closets	None ...	... None
To waste water closets	None ...	... None

	Conversions During 1951	During 5 years 1946-50
No. of Waste Water Closets :—		
To fresh water closets	None ...	... None
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	None ...	... 9

Is there any definite policy at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets? All now converted into fresh water closets.

What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? All fresh water closets.

The following are the number of closets and ash-pits :—

Fresh water closets	1,450
Waste water closets	0
Privy closets	0
Privy ash-pits	0
Dry ash-pits	0
Ashbins in town	1,300

Rivers and Streams.—No rivers and streams pass through the district.

Sewers and Sewerage System.—The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consist of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks, and 14 sludge beds. The sewerage is pumped from the settling tanks to the sludge beds. These tanks were constructed in 1941.

No. of houses connected direct to sewer ...	1,316
No. of houses connected to septic tanks ...	34
Estimated number of houses on the water-carriage system	1,350

Water Supply is good and ample, and is under the control of the Fylde Water Board.

The water mains have been flushed by the Fylde Water Board's workmen at different times.

All the houses in the town are supplied with Fylde Water.
Supplies to Houses.

Direct to Houses.		By means of standpipe.	
No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estimated No. of population
1,350	7,388	Nil.	Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

No. of disinfections after death or removal of tuberculosis cases	2
No. of Houses disinfected	2
No. of Schools disinfected	Nil
No. of Library and other School books disinfected	Nil

All cases are visited upon receipt of notification. After the death or removal of patients for either hospital or sanatorium treatment the rooms are thoroughly disinfected with formalin.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools are inspected regularly and found satisfactory. All the Schools are supplied with Fylde water, and have fresh water closets connected direct to the sewer.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number on Register : Nil.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of premises : None. Type of offensive trade : None.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	87	8	—
Factories without Mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	87	8	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	13	13	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	2	2	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	2	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	1	—
Other Offences	2	2	—	—
Total	22	22	5	—

Number of Factory and Works' Chimneys in the District ... 7

Number of Black Smoke observations 51

Time Limit Allowed—Minutes per hour 6

Livestock (Restriction on Slaughtering)
(No. 2) Order, 1940.

Ministry of Food Order which came into operation
January 15th, 1940.

None of the three Registered Slaughter-houses have been used during the year.

All animals destined for food have been killed outside the district and the meat brought in and allocated to our butchers.

FOOD CONDEMNED.

21 tins Milk.	10½ lbs. Ham.
5 stone Haddock.	9½ lbs. Bacon.
6 tins Luncheon Meat.	1 tin Grapes.
26 tins Salmon.	1 tin Apples.
120 lbs. Boiled Ham.	1 tin Beans.
1 lb. Steak.	8 tins Mincemeat.
21 lbs. Cooked Ham.	4 tins Fruit.

SHELLFISH (Molluscans).

Particulars of any shellfish beds or layings which may be in the district: None in District.

Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to milk, including inspection of farms and dairies, the Administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 and 1938.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, there are 9 Registered producers and retailers of Milk, and 3 Registered retailers only. 21 inspections have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a clean, sanitary condition.

All the farms are supplied with Fylde water.

No. of Registered Cheese Factories	1
No. of Registered Cowkeepers, including Dairy Farms ...	9
No. of Milk Purveyors (other than Cowkeepers)	3
No. of Licences issued to Dealers in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Approximate number of Dairy Cows in district 120

Number of Licences issued in respect of Pasteurised Milk :—

Pasteurising Plants 0

Retail Distributors 2

Part of the milk supply is brought in by farmers from the surrounding districts.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of :—

(*a*) Shops Act, 1934 ... ... None

(*b*) Public Health Act, 1936. 2 informal notices were served for defective conveniences. These were complied with.

Camping Sites.—None in district.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT—SANITARY INSPECTION.

No. of Premises visited	540
,, ,, Defects or Nuisances	89
,, ,, Preliminary Notices served by Inspector	32
,, ,, Statutory Notices served by Order of Council ...	5
,, ,, Nuisances remedied	89
,, ,, Drains opened out and defects rectified	27
,, ,, Defective roofs and gutters repaired	13
,, ,, Houses repaired inside	20
,, ,, Defective w.c. basins and cisterns	29

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Number of premises in district in which rag flock or other filling materials were used in manufacture of bedding, toys, etc. : 2.

HOUSING.

Number houses on Rate Books 1,350

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(*a*) By the Local Authority ... ... None

(*b*) By other bodies or persons 2

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions.—The general housing conditions are fair, mostly small to medium sized houses of both parlour and non-parlour type. There is a considerable proportion of old property in the district.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district : None.

Comment on the extent to which housing matters have been affected by the changed conditions during the year under review : No great change.

Sufficiency of supply of houses : Approximately 200 houses are required, mainly of the 3-bedroom type, but with a few 2-bedroom type.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

No. of Houses inspected for housing defects 85

No. of inspections made for the purpose 133

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice 32

No. of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Act, 1925-32 ... ... Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

No. of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 3

No. of Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—

(*a*) By Owners 1

(*b*) By L.A. in default of owners ... ... Nil

2.—Housing Schemes.—Particulars of any housing schemes in hand or completed during 1951 :—

A layout for 125 houses on a new estate has received planning approval and tenders have been invited for the construction of the first 29. It is hoped to start these early in 1952.

3. Overcrowding.—Comment briefly on the position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area : The nation wide causes of housing shortage apply to this district. There are some 350 applicants for Council houses and 20 for private houses. About 50 per cent. of these are from persons "in rooms." The waiting list is growing with new applications being received faster than houses can be built.

4. Clearance and Improvement Areas.—Give particulars of any action taken during 1951 : None.

Notable sanitary improvements during 1951 : None.

OVERCROWDING. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV.

(*a*)	No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	4
	No. of families dwelling therein	7
	No. of persons dwelling therein	23
(*b*)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
	No. of families housed during the year	1
	No. of persons concerned in such cases	3

DISINFESTATION.

Particulars of action taken during 1951. Number of houses found to be infested :—

Council Houses	2
Other Houses	3

Number of Houses Disinfested :—

Council Houses	2
Other Houses	3

Methods employed for Disinfestation of Houses :—

Spraying, fumigating, cleansing and disinfecting.

Is the work of disinfestation carried out by the Local Authority or by a Contractor? By the Local Authority.

Methods employed for ensuring disinfestation of belongings of tenants before removal to Council Houses :—

All furniture and goods are put through the fumigation van where necessary.

I am, yours obediently,

J. ECKERSLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.P.

Sanitary Inspector.